

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 04867 081708Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASS THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8910

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4867

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NL

SUBJ: US/EC PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 221450

IN COURSE OF DCM'S CONVERSATION WITH MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN HE EXPRESSED EXTREME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT US WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING MOST RECENT US DISCUSSIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL THAT DUTCH, IN CAPACITY OF EC PRESIDENCY, WOULD BE MAIN CHANNEL FOR INFORMATION. DUTCH HAD NOTED SECRETARY'S TALKS IN LOND, PARIS AND HAMBURG, REASONS FOR WHICH THEY APPRECIATED, BUT RUTTEN EMPHASIZED THAT DUTCH VERY MUCH HOPED THAT PRINCIPLE OF PRESIDENCY CHANNEL FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND EC-9 COULD BE RESPECTED. HE CONCLUDED THAT DUTCH PRESIDENCY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOME DIRECT INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND RESULTS OF CONVERSATIONS. DUTCH HAD IN MIND POSSIBILITY THAT EC9 MIGHT HAVE SOME ROLE TO PLAY IN PROCESS AND ALSO FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, AS SPOKESMAN OF EC9 IN UNGA GENERAL DEBATE, WOULD EXPECT TO DEAL WITH SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING SOME REFERENCE TO US INITIATIVES AND PERHAPS EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR THEM.

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PAGE 02 THE HA 04867 081708Z

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